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**DOCTOR AND FORMER NIH RESEARCHER PLEADS GUILTY TO
POSSESSION OF CHILD PORN**

*Possessed Over 600 Images of Minors Engaged in Sexually Explicit Conduct,
Including Sadistic Conduct*

Baltimore, Maryland - McClellan Walther, age 52, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, a doctor and formerly a researcher at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), pleaded guilty today to possession of child pornography, announced United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court as part of the plea agreement, in response to advertisements posted on the Internet in 2004 by undercover agents, Walther emailed his interest in buying videos of young females with females, young females with males, and "hard core" pre-teen material. In late 2004 and January 2005, Walther emailed his order for seven videos described in child pornography catalogs sent by agents. He used his NIH e-mail account to order several of these videos. Walther sent a postal money order to pay for the videos depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit activity, and on February 23, 2005 a postal inspector delivered the videos to Walther's residence. A few minutes after the delivery, agents entered the residence and found one video in a VCR and the remaining videos from the opened package. Walther's home computer was seized, searched, and contained at least one image of a prepubescent minor, over 600 images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct and at least one image portraying sadistic conduct.

Walther faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison followed by supervised release for life and a fine of \$250,000. Sentencing is scheduled for March 30th, 2007 at 10:00a.m.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the investigative work performed by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Mr. Rosenstein thanked Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. Fortune, who is prosecuting the case.
